



AIEO UPDATE



AIEO UPDATE is published to provide information on the activities of the USEPA's American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) and the EPA Indian Program. AIEO UPDATE is available through electronic mail and in the EPA AIEO Web Page under "Publications." AIEO greatly encourages input and feedback. Please contact Marlene RedDoor at (202) 564-0290 or through e-mail (regelski-reddoor.marlene@epa.gov) for more information or submissions you may have.

December 2004

Web Page: <http://www.epa.gov/indian>

NUMBER 17

NEWS FROM THE AIEO DIRECTOR



As we approach the end of 2004 and our holiday season, I can truly say that it has been a year of tremendous accomplishments for AIEO and the EPA Indian Program. We can count our many blessings this year and look forward to a stronger and, perhaps, even more eventful year in 2005. This edition of AIEO UPDATE will take you through a summary of many of the activities of 2004 and a number of events which we can look forward to in 2005.

AIEO has completed its restructuring and developed an AIEO Tribal Plan encompassing all six of its workgroups. We have been lucky to add a great deal of talent to our already amazing staff and I have announced five areas of emphasis to help direct our work with the future in mind. Details of these are written below or designated as a web page link. As you read this edition of AIEO UPDATE and realize all that is unfolding, please know how honored I am to work

with such dedicated and determined people at EPA who are accomplishing our mission and furthering our commitment and responsibility to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

AIEO/INDIAN PROGRAM NEWS

REAFFIRMATION OF THE EPA INDIAN POLICY BY ADMINISTRATOR LEAVITT on its 20 year anniversary - On September 17, 2004, as American Indians and many other people from around the U.S. and the world were in Washington, D.C., celebrating the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian, Administrator Leavitt signed a memorandum reaffirming EPA Indian Policy. The year 2004 marks the 20 anniversary of the issuance of the EPA Indian Policy. The press release and memo can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/indian/policyintitvs.htm>.

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH on September 23, 2004, issued a memorandum to the heads of all executive departments and agencies on the Government-to-Government Relationship with Federally recognized tribal governments. He emphasized his support and respect for tribal sovereignty and self determination for tribal governments. The memo can be found at : <http://www.epa.gov/indian/policyintitvs.htm>.

AIEO WORKPLAN AND DIRECTOR'S EMPHASIS AREAS - AIEO published its FY2004-2005 Tribal Plan in June. It is created as a living document that will change and grow as the program develops and its goals are met. We also will need all of our partners to accomplish its goals. With that in mind, Carol Jorgensen has announced five specific areas of emphasis to help guide the direction of our Indian Program work. These are:

- Develop and implement a comprehensive EPA National Tribal Strategy;
- Ensure incorporation of subsistence lifeways into EPA's decision making processes;
- Enhance collaborative partnerships to ensure a unified approach to program management;
- Ensure availability of accurate and comprehensive data to support quality environmental decisions; and
- Ensure a consistent environmental presence in Indian country.

To read the document please see: <http://www.epa.gov/indian/new.htm> or <http://www.epa.gov/indian/miss.htm>. You can request an electronic copy by emailing Willnetta Ball, ball.willnetta@epa.gov, (202) 564-0902.

GENERAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT - Carol Jorgensen announced a summary of EPA's Tribal Program accomplishments for FY2004 in a report distributed in December 2004. The report represents an overview of information on the Indian Program and the tremendous amount of work done this year by the Administrator, Program Offices, Regions and the Tribal Operations Committee. For more information please go to: <http://www.epa.gov/indian/new.htm> or <http://www.epa.gov/indian/miss.htm>. You can request an electronic copy by emailing Willnetta Ball, ball.willnetta@epa.gov, (202) 564-0902.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (GAP) - The GAP received a positive review from the President's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in Fiscal Year 2004, with the highest score of Office Water programs evaluated on the Performance Assessment Rating Tool (PART). OMB is using the PART to assess the performance of federal programs and to help inform management actions, budget requests, and legislative proposals directed at achieving results. The review underscores the fact that since its inception a decade ago, GAP continues to have a meaningful impact in helping Tribal governments and EPA in building environmental capacity throughout Indian Country. Contact: Rodges Ankrah, ankrah.rodges@epa.gov, (202) 564-0280.

AIEO to conduct GAP Program Evaluation - AIEO has been awarded contract resources through an internal EPA competition to conduct a program evaluation of the GAP. Among the projects goals are: strengthening the ability to describe the impact of the program on a national basis, and building a profile of the key factors in each community that will best enable tribes to use GAP resources to build environmental capacity.

AIEO's evaluation team is soliciting input on the proposed questions and methodology for this evaluation, and will be refining the methodology and questions in early 2005. Contact: Teresa Kuklinski, kuklinski.teresa@epa.gov, (202) 564-0246.

EPA PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN (NMAI) OPENING DAY EVENTS - To show support for the NMAI opening day celebration, a contingency of about 30 EPA employees joined the procession of nations on the National Mall on September 21, 2004. EPA was the only Federal Agency to actively participate in the procession. The opening of NMAI marked the culmination of planning which started in 1989, when Congress created NMAI as part of the Smithsonian Institution and the construction which broke ground in September of 1999. We are tremendously fortunate to have such an enormous cultural resource so close to EPA. AIEO encourages all employees, whether or not they work with tribal governments, to visit and learn about American Indian cultures and peoples.



WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH TRIBAL GOVERNMENT TRAINING - received a tremendous new look. The Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances led a collaborative effort to create an electronic version of EPA's lauded comprehensive training on the cultural, legal, regulatory and historical background on how to work effectively with Tribal governments. The training is currently available only to EPA employees during a pilot period. While the training does not supercede an actual 1-3 day training course with an in person panel for cultural awareness and contact, this training does relay an interactive lengthy amount of information important and necessary for EPA staff and managers to achieve a competency in tribal issues and background. In addition, it is interesting and enjoyable to take. Contact Caren Rothstein-Robinson, rothstein-robinson.caren@epa.gov, (202) 564-0544.

AIEO STAFF HIGHLIGHTS - We are excited to have added so much talent this year to the AIEO staff. A few are permanent, some are involved in internships and others here on detail. See page 8 for details.

GREAT LAKES INITIATIVE - AIEO Director, Carol Jorgensen, and AIEO staff have been working with EPA

Administrator Leavitt to ensure that tribal leaders are part of the President's Great Lakes initiative. The President's Great Lakes Executive Order, signed on May 18, 2004, established a Great Lakes Interagency Task Force (consisting of the Secretaries of State, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, Homeland Security, Army, and the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality). The E.O. also directed the Task Force, led by Administrator Leavitt of EPA, to "partner with the Great Lakes States, tribal and local governments, communities, and other interests to establish a regional collaboration to address nationally significant environmental and natural resource issues involving the Great Lakes." Tribal governments in the Great Lakes area are working together as partners in the process.

The "Great Lakes Regional Collaboration" (GLRC) convened a forum in Chicago, IL, on Friday, December 3, 2004 for the region's leaders and interested stakeholders. This meeting included a ceremony to sign the Great Lakes Declaration allowing Principals to "pledge their support for the development of a widely understood and broadly supported strategy with actions to further protect and restore the Great Lakes through the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration process."

During the afternoon of December 3rd, the Strategy Teams met for the first time. The Strategy Teams were created using the October 1, 2003 Council of Great Lakes Governors' priorities as a starting point. These teams will be the working bodies responsible for drafting the different sections of the widely understood and broadly supported strategy that the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration will develop. For further information on the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, please visit www.epa.gov/greatlakes/collaboration. You may also contact in AIEO: Candi Schaedle, schaedle.candi@epa.gov, (202) 564-6121, or Ella Mulford, mulford.eloise@epa.gov, (202) 564-0285.

DIRECT IMPLEMENTATION TRIBAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS (DITCA) GUIDANCE - Benjamin Grumbles, the recently confirmed Assistant Administrator for Water, signed a memorandum on November 24, 2004, issuing revised guidance for Direct Implementation Tribal Cooperative Agreements (DITCAs) effective immediately. These Guidelines are meant to assist regional and headquarters personnel in the process of developing and funding DITCAs and replace previously issued guidance. If the DITCA authority is extended in future years, these guidelines will continue to apply until new guidelines or revisions to these guidelines are created.

DITCAs were initially authorized in the FY 2001 Appropriations Act [(P.L. 107-73, 115 Stat. 686(2001))] to enable EPA to award cooperative agreements to federally recognized Indian tribes and eligible intertribal consortia to assist EPA in implementing federal environmental programs for Indian tribes in the absence of an acceptable tribal program. The approach was developed with the recognition that some tribes are not implementing environmental programs, such as under tribal authority through EPA's "treatment in a manner similar to states" (TAS) process for a variety of reasons. DITCAs provide another avenue for tribes and EPA to partner in implementing meaningful environmental protection in Indian country. Additionally, DITCAs provide tribes with the flexibility and opportunity to develop staff capacity to manage environmental programs, to address specific tribal environmental needs and priorities that are within EPA's authority for direct implementation, and to determine the scope and pace of tribal involvement, all through a DITCA work plan.

For more information on this guidance, please go to: <http://www.epa.gov/indian/laws3.htm> or contact Jeff Besougloff, besougloff.jeff@epa.gov, (202) 564-0303.

TRIBAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE: - *The Tribal Operations Committee (TOC) consists of the EPA Senior Leadership Council from EPA HQs and Regions, and the Tribal Caucus ((TC), Tribal Representatives from each of EPA's Regions. Tribal Caucus members are selected by the tribes in each Region. This group meets on a regular basis to discuss implementation of the environmental protection programs for which EPA and the tribes share responsibility as co-regulators. All tribes are encouraged to communicate with members of the TOC. A list of current Tribal Caucus Members is available through AIEO, Regions and on the AIEO Web Page at: <http://www.epa.gov/indian/overtoc.htm>*

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL TRIBAL CAUCUSES MEETING - November 15-18, 2004, Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence, KS. The Tribal Caucus of the Tribal Operations Committee held its annual election of officers at the November meeting held in conjunction with the EPA National Indian Work Group at the Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, KS. An updated list of the Tribal Caucus consisting of the newly elected officers and the results of the regional elections of National Caucus members is available on the AIEO web-site. There are new additions to the Tribal Caucus as a result of Regional elections. The National Tribal Caucus members met with their Regional counterparts in a biannual meeting to discuss Tribal priority issues.

Newly elected officers are: Calvin Murphy (Cherokee, Chairman, Nat Nutongla (Hopi), Vice-Chairman, Felix Kitto

(Santee Sioux) Secretary. These officers will serve for a period of one year. You may contact Elvira Dixon , dixon.elvira@epa.gov , (202) 564-0378, for more information or to request a copy of the full membership list.

“BUILDING TRIBAL CAPACITY” REPORTING SYSTEM: AIEO rolled out a web-based reporting tool to collect annual commitments and record program performance during the National Indian Work Group/Tribal Operations Committee Meeting (Lawrence Kansas, November 15, 2004). The reporting system provides a centralized way to collect program performance information from each Region and reflects our work with tribes as required under EPA’s National Strategic Plan, Goal 5, Objective 3: “Build Tribal Capacity.” Goal 5, Objective 3, establishes six national program performance targets that AIEO must report on each fiscal year. Accomplishments tracked under the new reporting tool include:

- Number of tribal environmental program “Treatment in a Manner Similar to a State” (TAS) approvals, delegations and/or authorizations;
- Number of tribal/EPA “Direct Implementation Tribal Cooperative Agreements” (DITCA);
- Number of GAP Cooperative Agreements awarded to tribes that contain solid and/or hazardous waste implementation activities;
- Number of EPA-approved tribal quality assurance project plans;
- Number of Tribal Environmental Agreements (TEAs); and
- Number of tribal Performance Partnership Grants (PPGs).

The web-based reporting tool serves four purposes: (1) provides a way to collect from each Region their specific commitments for what they plan to accomplish under the 6 national program performance targets during each fiscal year; (2) allows each Region to enter program performance data by tribe as progress is made under the various measures tracked by the system; (3) compiles information into various regional and national reports that reflect our program accomplishments; and (4) meets the Agency Strategic Plan reporting system requirement.

The Goal 5, Objective 3: “Build Tribal Capacity” reporting tool has caught the interest of EPA’s Office of Water (OW) budget office, Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO), and the Office of Management & Budget (OMB). OMB and OCFO staff expressed interest in receiving an in depth demonstration of the system and OW budget office employees have indicated that AIEO may be setting an example for other OW offices and EPA programs to follow.

Those interested are encouraged to visit the Goal 5, Objective 3: “Build Tribal Capacity” web site (see below) program performance reports, provide feedback, and forward comments to AIEO so it can continue to improve the reporting tool. You will only be able to look at reports and not generate any data. **Contact: Luke Jones (202) 564-5763. Reporting Tool for Goal 5, Objective 3: “Build Tribal Capacity”**

https://oasint.rtpnc.epa.gov/TATS/tats_prv/entry_page. [EPA’s National Strategic Plan](http://www.epa.gov/ocfopage/plan/2003sp.pdf)
<http://www.epa.gov/ocfopage/plan/2003sp.pdf>

OTHER NEWS FROM PROGRAMS, REGIONS and **PARTNERS**– *News on Meetings, Publications, Training, Interagency Workgroups, etc.*

SMART GROWTH INITIATIVE: Tribe honored by EPA Administrator for Smart Growth Initiatives

On November 17, 2004, EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt presented the agency’s 2004 National Award for Smart Growth Achievement to one tribe and four communities in three states for innovative approaches to development that strengthen community identity and protect the environment.

The Office of the Governor of the San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico, received the award for a Master Land Use Plan that honors Native American heritage while encouraging economic growth and providing needed housing. The first of its kind for a Native American community, the plan and process by which it was developed are a valuable model for tribes and communities around the country. In 2003, a 40-unit, mixed income, rental housing project was completed, exhibiting a culturally appropriate, affordable design.

Smart Growth is development that serves the economy, public health and the environment by preserving open space and parkland, protecting critical habitat, improving transportation choices to reduce emissions from

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automobiles, cleaning up and reusing brownfields, and reducing paved surfaces to minimize polluted run-off. Communities can use Smart Growth to help them grow in ways that protect and enhance their natural environments and create prosperity. For additional information on the awards or program, please go to: <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/awards.htm>.

7th NATIONAL TRIBAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (NTCEM) - WILL BE HOSTED BY THE THE GRAND TRAVERSE BAND OF OTTAWA AND CHIPPEWA INDIANS (GTB) IN TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN ON JUNE 7 - 10, 2005

THE NATIONAL TRIBAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (NTCEM) has generally been held on a bi-annual basis since 1992. It provides a great opportunity for Tribal, State, Federal and private sector participants to establish partnerships, create alliances, strengthen existing relations, and share solutions to environmental management issues.



For 2005, the tribal host, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians was selected through a national competition. A number of EPA offices contribute to the cooperative agreement to fund the sponsor. A crowd of over 800 tribal leaders, tribal environmental managers, tribal scientists, tribal organizations, EPA program and regional managers and staff, other federal agencies, students, and environmental industry representatives attended the last NTCEM, hosted by the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe in 2002.

The Grand Traverse Band (GTB) is actively seeking agenda suggestions on environmental issues of importance in Indian Country and will use selected ideas to shape the conference agenda. You are encouraged to submit your ideas on environmental activities, issues, and opportunities for participation in the event. In addition, GTB will have significant room for interested vendors at the conference. For more information please contact Andy Knott, GTB Environmental Stewardship Director at (231) 271-7363 or aknott@gtbindians.com or Suzanne McSawby, GTB Natural Resource Department Director at (231)271-7104 or smcsawby@gtbindians.com.

Within EPA Contact: Caren Rothstein-Robinson, robinson.caren@epa.gov, (202) 564-0544.

OFFICE OF AIR & RADIATION (OAR)

"TRIBAL AIR GRANTS: A MENU OF OPTIONS" - OAR has developed a tool to assist tribes in writing effective grant applications and workplans for CAA Sections 103 and 105 Grants, entitled "*Tribal Air Grants Framework: A Menu of Options.*" The purpose of the tool is to assist tribes developing CAA programs in identifying typical work plan elements and simplifying their grants management process. The "options" in the menus offer templates for some of the more common activities involved in achieving primary air quality objectives, but are not requirements. To download or print out this document, please go to: http://www.epa.gov/indian/pdfs/tribal_air_grants_framework_final04.pdf or contact Darrel Harmon, OAR Tribal Coordinator, harmon.darrel@epa.gov, (202) 564-7416.

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION (OEI)

The Office of Environmental Information celebrated it's 5th Anniversary in October, 2004. One of its featured accomplishments was the Exchange Network Grant Program.

The Exchange Network Grant Program provides funding to states, territories, federally recognized Indian tribes, and tribal consortia to support the development of the Environmental Information Exchange Network. The Exchange Network is an Internet- and standards-based, secure information network that facilitates electronic reporting, and the sharing, integration, analysis, and use of environmental data from many different sources.

FY 2005 Solicitation Notice is available. Federally recognized tribes and tribal consortia are eligible to apply. The application deadline is January 15, 2005. For further information go to <http://www.epa.gov/networkg> or

contact Rebecca Moser, the Exchange Network Grant Program Manager, at moser.rebecca@epa.gov or (202) 566-1679.

The FY 2004 Exchange Network Grant Program awards have been issued, and they included three categories of grants for tribes: Tribal Readiness Grants (8 awarded), Tribal Implementation Grants (8 awarded), and Tribal Challenge Grants (3 awarded). For more information on the FY 2004 grants go to <http://www.epa.gov/networkg>. Information about tribal projects funded to date can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/networkg/tribal>.

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE (OECA)

OECA TRIBAL NATIONAL PRIORITY: Tribal compliance assurance was selected as a national enforcement and compliance priority for the FY 2005- 2007 period. Like the other OECA National priorities, it was selected after seeking public comment on many potential priorities and analyzing: (1) whether national attention could lead to significant environmental benefits; (2) patterns of non-compliance; and (3) EPA responsibility for taking action. The primary goal of the tribal priority is to significantly improve human health and the environment in Indian country and other tribal areas through EPA and tribal compliance assistance, compliance monitoring, and enforcement activity. Through capacity building and direct implementation, EPA will achieve this goal by initially focusing national attention on three areas: drinking water, schools, and waste management. A wide array of environmental information on each of these areas is available in the "current EPA priorities section of the National Environmental Compliance Assistance Clearinghouse at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/clearinghouse/index.cfm?TopicID=C:10:450>. Tribal information is available in the compliance assistance, compliance monitoring, and enforcement categories.

In addition, OECA published its formal strategy this year. It can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/oeca/planning/tribal/strategy.html>. For further information please contact: Jonathan Binder, binder.jonathan@epa.gov, or (202) 564-2516.

OFFICE OF PREVENTION, PESTICIDES & TOXICS (OPPTS)

OPPTS TRIBAL STRATEGIC PLAN (TSP)- Fiscal Years 2004-2008 was published in August 2004. The purpose of the Tribal Strategic Plan is to promote the best use of OPPTS resources to foster environmental gains in Indian country. It was created through a collaborative process with tribal input and EPA agency-wide participation and serves as a valuable tool for implementation of the OPPTS tribal program. For more information please contact: Caren Rothstein-Robinson, rothstein-robinson.caren@epa.gov, (202) 564-0544.

WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS TRAINING: "Working Effectively with Tribal Governments" is EPA's innovative model training tool for its employees on cultural, regulatory and legal implications for working with Tribal governments and cultures. It is now available to EPA employees electronically through the EPA OPPTS Intranet as a pilot program. After a period of successful piloting, it may be available to a wider audience. It is a comprehensive, interactive and enjoyable online training that will have a positive benefit for all EPA employees needing to understand the federal government's unique relationship with Federally recognized tribes and its trust responsibility. For more information contact: Caren Rothstein-Robinson, rothstein-robinson.caren@epa.gov, (202) 564-0544.

OPPTS TRIBAL NEWS - DECEMBER 2004 ISSUE - Focuses on Pollution Prevention, Green Buildings and EPA's participation in NMAI opening. It will also be available online at: <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/tribal/pubs.html>. For more information please contact: Mary Lauterbach, lauterbach.mary@epa.gov, (202) 564-8821.

FORUM ON STATE AND TRIBAL TOXICS ACTION (FOSTTA) TRIBAL AFFAIRS PROJECT (TAP): The Tribal Affairs Project, a collaborative subgroup of FOSTTA, held its last meeting on October 18-19, 2004. FOSTTA is a partnership among the U.S. EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics and state and tribal leaders to increase understanding and improve collaboration on toxics and pollution prevention issues among the states, tribes, and EPA. TAP identified three areas of emphasis in which to focus its attention – emerging chemicals of

concern, green buildings/green procurement, and risk assessment. TAP began developing a Work Plan and held a brainstorming session to come up with additional ideas on expanding pollution prevention in Indian Country.

TAP plans to submit the three areas of emphasis as a proposed agenda topics at NTEC and NTCM in 2005. For additional information you may contact: Darlene Harrod, harrod.darlene@epa.gov, (202) 564-8814.

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (ORD)

NATIONAL EPA TRIBAL SCIENCE COUNCIL (TSC)

WEB PORTAL : SCIENCE FOR AMERICAN INDIANS & LIST SERVE - The Science and American Indians web site provides a wide range of science information and resources gathered through tribal traditional knowledge, analytical science, and integrated approaches to science by tribes, EPA, and other Federal agencies and tribal organizations. It may be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/osp/tribes.htm>. In addition, this site provides information on the activities and products of the EPA workgroup that address tribally driven science issues, the National EPA-Tribal Science Council.

It also contains a place to sign up for a list serve for receiving emails on scientific information related to tribes. You will receive updates on scientific information such as announcements on training activities, funding opportunities, upcoming events, and scientific materials on a range of environmental topics. You may find it at: <http://www.epa.gov/osp/tribes/email.htm>. For additional information contact: Claudia Walters, walters.claudia@epa.gov, (202) 564-6762.

NATIONAL EPA-TRIBAL SCIENCE COUNCIL (TSC) and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe are hosting a workshop on "Addressing Tribal Traditional Lifeways in EPA's Risk Assessment Policies and Procedures." The workshop will be held January 25-28, 2005, at John Ascuaga's Nugget Casino Resort in Reno, Nevada. The workshop will explore how Tribal Traditional Lifeways can be considered in EPA's risk assessment process with the objectives of (1) examining the risk assessment process to identify where Tribal Traditional Lifeways can be incorporated into EPA's existing approach; (2) identifying data, products, and tools that can modify or enhance EPA's risk assessment policies or procedures to incorporate Tribal Traditional Lifeways; and (3) developing overarching principals that account for Tribal Traditional Lifeways in EPA's risk assessment policies and practices.

As the outcome, the workshop plans to develop recommendations to EPA for establishing a tribal policy for risk assessments. The workshop is designed for tribal or EPA persons with interest or involvement in tribal environmental issues, tribal risk assessments, and Tribal Traditional Lifeways, such as ceremonial, cultural, and other daily traditional tribal activities. Logistical information and on-line registration for the event are currently available at: <http://www.epa.gov/osp/tribes/announce/event.htm#workshop>.

OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE (OSWER)

OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE - FY05 TRIBAL OPEN DUMP CLEANUP PROJECT SOLICITATION FOR 2005 WAS ANNOUNCED IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER IN NOVEMBER 2004. The solicitation package is available at:

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/tribal/finance.htm> - The Tribal Open Dump Cleanup Project (Cleanup Project) helps tribes: (1) close or clean up high-threat open dumps; (2) develop alternative disposal options, and; (3) establish integrated solid waste management and enforcement programs. Proposals must be received by EPA Headquarters no later than January 31, 2005.

The Tribal Solid Waste Interagency Workgroup coordinates the solicitation for federal assistance to. Workgroup members include representatives from the EPA, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Indian Health Service (IHS), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, and Housing and Urban Development.

The Workgroup is soliciting proposals for its sixth year of the Cleanup Project. Since FY99, the Workgroup has funded approximately \$13.4 million in projects. In FY04, the Interagency Workgroup made approximately \$2.5 million available to fully or partially fund 23 selected projects. A similar amount of funding is projected for FY05. For further information please contact: Chris Dege, dege.christopher@epa.gov, (703) 308-2392.

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OFFICE OF WATER TRIBAL PLAN - The Office of Water (OW) published its original Tribal Plan in 1998. A new Office of Water "Plan for EPA/Tribal Partnership, 2005-2008" updates the OW plan to align with EPA's five strategic goal structure. It provides a consolidated statement of OW's targeted objectives and activities for Indian country during the years 2005-2008, and identifies high priority, trackable program efforts that will be used to measure progress toward defined goals. For more information contact: Karen Rudek, rudek.karen@epa.gov, (202) 564-0472,

AIEO STAFF HIGHLIGHTS - We are excited to have added so much talent this year to the AIEO staff. A few are permanent, some are involved in internships and others here on detail. Here are some highlights of the AIEO staff you may not yet know well.

Gary Hudiburgh - joined the AIEO as the Deputy Office Director in April of 2004. As the Chief of the Municipal Assistance Branch in the Office of Water for six years, Gary supported creative new approaches to solving infrastructure challenges now and in the future from water efficiency (supporting a voluntary, water-efficient market-enhancement program similar to Energy Star), to training the future workforce in environmental issues (through the Youth and the Environment Program). During his tenure in the Municipal Support Division, Gary has also provided leadership on Tribal issues including the Alaska Native Village program and ensuring the Agency exceeded its tribal wastewater sanitation goals as well as increasing the set aside to 1.5 percent on an annual basis. Previously, Gary was chief of the OW NPDES Program Branch, and provided leadership for the development of the NPDES/sludge management treatment in the same manner as a State regulation. Finally, from 1995 -1996, he spent a year on the Navajo Nation, working with Navajo EPA in development of Tribal water program authorities.

Grace Braddock - (Grace is the beautiful smiling face you will see as you first visit AIEO. She is a Senior Environmental Employee (SEE) .) Here is what she writes: I'm originally from Brunswick County, Lawrenceville, VA. I attended St. Paul's Polytechnic Institute and James Solomon Russell Academic Courses. I moved to Washington, D.C., and attended night school, taking business courses. In 1958, I started working for Hecht's, now a division of the May Co., in 1958. I held many positions during the 40 years I spent there before retiring, including clerical, receiving, UPS, accounts payable, merchandise information, communications, live switch board operator for the entire company, communicating with people all over the world, supervisor in accounts payable invoice office. While I worked, I also attended Prince George's County Community College with a major in Business Management. I also attended classes at Kendall Baptist Church and became a certified minister in 1997. I look forward to much new and interesting work in AIEO.

Luke Jones - Luke started a six month detail with AIEO in August, 2004. He comes to us from EPA's Office of Solid Waste (OSW) tribal waste management program where he served as Team Leader for the National Tribal Hazardous Waste Management Program. Luke has over 13 years of experience improving Federal environmental management programs in Indian Country by promoting greater consultation with affected tribes and tribal organizations. Luke earned a Master of Public Affairs degree from Indiana University (1996) and a BA in Political Science from Rutgers College (1991). Luke will support the AIEO "Information & Analysis" and "Grants" workgroups.

Dan Kessler - started his internship with AIEO in May of 2004. His mentor at EPA is Senior Policy Advisor Jeff Besougloff. While attending Fisher College in Boston, MA, Dan acted as the school's student representative and met with the Boston Council to discuss civil matters with neighboring residents. He has worked as Naturalist for Potomac Overlook Regional Park and has served as President's Assistant for small businesses in New York, Virginia, and Washington, DC. Dan Kessler is founder of *Seemingly Obvious*, a guitar cover design and manufacturing company, and holds intellectual property rights domestically and abroad. He is completing his AA from Northern Virginia Community College and plans to continue his education locally while managing his company.

Teresa Kuklinski - comes to AIEO through the EPA intern program. She is working on projects for the Information and Analysis and Grants Workgroups including information sharing and a GAP grant evaluation. She is excited to be at the EPA and is enjoying meeting everyone. Teresa completed graduate school at the

University of Washington in June with a Masters Degree in Public Administration, Masters in Science (Water Resources) and a Certificate in International Development Policy and Management. Before that, she managed a GAP grant for an Indian Tribe in the Pacific Northwest, was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mali, West Africa where she lived with members of the Fulani Tribe (note: she will exchange Fulfulde language lessons for chocolate!), worked on indigenous environmental issues for World Wildlife Fund in Malaysia and ProNaturaleza in Peru, and worked at Hanford, WA, where she was raised. Teresa has degrees in Environmental Studies (BS) and Anthropology (BA) and spent one summer studying rock glaciers and guiding ice climbing trips in the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, Alaska. She enjoys hiking, trekking, traveling, playing tennis, skiing, cat-sitting and exploring new places.

Eloise (Ella) Mulford - is a workgroup member for AIEO's Communication & Outreach and Information & Analysis workgroups. She has over 20 years of experience in the environmental field, most recently working as a Project Officer for tribal grants in EPA's Region 8 Tribal Program. Ms. Mulford received her BS in Biology from Northern Arizona University. Although her background is in biology and chemistry, she has worked in different capacities including program manager for pollution prevention and waste minimization for the Department of Energy, environmental scientist for a national laboratory, an engineering firm, and a fish and wildlife organization. She is member of the Navajo Nation.

Janice Poole - (Janice has been here almost a year!) I am originally from Morgantown, West Virginia the home of the West Virginia Mountaineers, and still carry a slight West Virginia twang when speaking. I moved to Maryland in the early 1960s. I started my Federal career with EPA in 1975 working for Alvin Alm, then Assistant Administrator for the Office of Planning and Evaluation. In 1976, I joined the Office of the Administrator, Office of Executive Secretariat and served under Administrator Ruckelshaus through Administrator Whitman. In the Office of Executive Secretariat I was privy to all the executive communications from EPA Senior Officials, Congress, Regulated Industry, State, Tribal, local governments and our most important constituents the American public. Participating in all the major issues facing the agency from Love Canal in the early 1970s to 911 in 2001. I am now embarking on my second career here at EPA in the American Indian Environmental Office which is the most enlightening aspect of working for EPA as we improve the environment in Indian country. I am currently serving on the Communications and Outreach Workgroup and the Administrative and Resource Management Workgroup.

Candy Schaedle - is a member on the Legal/Policy and Grant workgroups in AIEO. She has a BA and MBS in geography and environmental studies and a JD with certification in environmental law. Before coming to AIEO, she was in the EPA Management Intern Program where she did multiple rotations around the Agency. She also worked for the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas for two years in the General Counsel's Office. Currently, she is working on the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration and the Alaska Native Villages grant workgroup.

Erika Wilson - Erika joined AIEO on a 3-month detail through the EPA Intern Program (EIP) in November 2004. A Washington area native, she graduated from St. Mary's College of Maryland with a Sociology/Anthropology degree in 2000. After college she worked with the Montana Conservation Corps, and the local Montgomery County Conservation Corps where she supervised crews of at-risk youth performing natural resource conservation projects. Erika came to the EPA in September 2003 as part of the EPA Intern Program, a career development program whose participants rotate into several HQ and Regional offices over a two year period. Over the past year, Erika has completed details in the Office of Acquisition Management, the Office of Environmental Justice, and the Office of Grants and Debarment. She is currently working on updating the resource guide for the "Working Effectively with Tribal Governments" training.

Program. We are lucky to have Joel's significant experience focused on the Indian Program. The Lead Region is responsible for Regional issues and initiatives of national significance brought up during every two fiscal years. Each EPA national program has a lead region assigned on a rotating bases.

Joel came to his Lead Region Coordinator position from Region 9's Water Division where he served as a Senior Policy Advisor, after completing a six-month detail as Federal Facilities Site Cleanup Branch Chief in the Superfund Division. He also gained valuable "Washington DC Experience" when he was detailed to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. Joel graduated in Economics from the University of Michigan, and has a Masters of Public Affairs in Public Policy from University of Texas-Austin. He started his Federal employment as a Presidential Management Intern for EPA's Hqs Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation in 1993.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!!!!

WISHING YOU ALL THE BEST IN THE NEW YEAR!!!!!!

